

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An aqueous ink composition for inkjet recording comprising:

a dye J-aggregate having an average particle size of 2 to 200 nm, wherein the dye changes the λ_{\max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, and wherein the dye J-aggregate is water-dispersible; and

water-dispersible polymer particles having an average particle size of 10 to 400 nm, wherein the amount of the water-dispersible polymer particles is from one to ten times as much as that of the J-aggregate.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:

applying an ink composition for inkjet recording comprising a dye J-aggregate having an average particle size of 2 to 200 nm, wherein the dye changes the λ_{\max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, and wherein the dye J-aggregate is water-dispersible, and water-dispersible polymer particles having an average particle size of 10 to 400 nm, wherein the amount of the water-dispersible polymer particles is from one to ten times as much as that of the J-aggregate,

to an image-receiving material comprising an image-receiving layer and a substrate, wherein the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:
applying an ink composition to an image-receiving material, wherein the ink composition comprises a dye J-aggregate, wherein the dye changes the λ_{\max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, and wherein the dye J-aggregate is water-dispersible, the image-receiving material comprises an image-receiving layer and a substrate, and the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment; and
uniformly applying water-dispersible polymer particles to the image-receiving material simultaneously with or subsequently to the application of the ink composition.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image forming method comprising:
uniformly applying water-dispersible polymer particles to an image-receiving material, the image-receiving material comprising an image-receiving layer and a substrate, wherein the image-receiving layer comprises an inorganic white pigment; and
applying an ink composition comprising a dye J-aggregate to the applied water-dispersible polymer particles during the state that the ink composition can pass through the polymer particles to reach the image-receiving material, wherein the dye changes the λ_{\max} in 20 to 150 nm between a molecular dispersion state and the J-aggregated state, and wherein the dye J-aggregate is water-dispersible.

Claim 5 (Original): The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the dye J-aggregate has an average particle size of 5 to 100 nm and the water-dispersible polymer particles have an average particle size of 20 to 200 nm.

Claim 6 (Original): The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a pH between 4.5 and 10.0.

Claim 7 (Original): The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a surface tension of 20 to 60 mN/m.

Claim 8 (Original): The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, which has a viscosity not higher than 30 mPa·s.

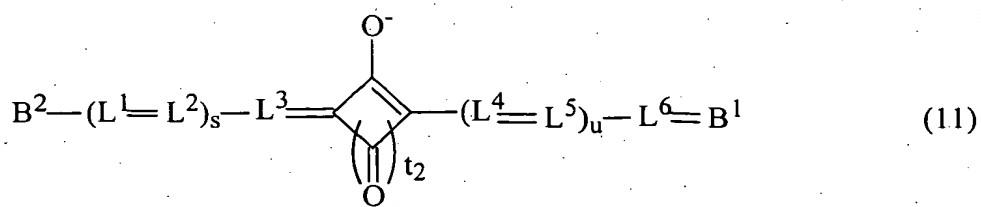
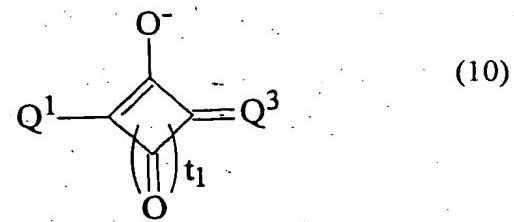
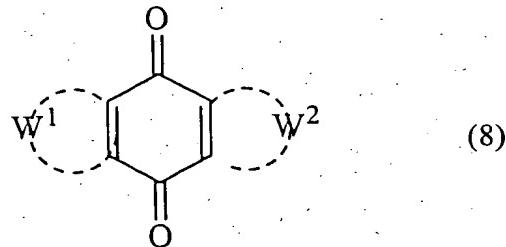
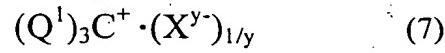
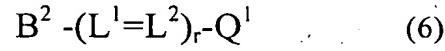
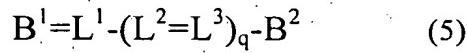
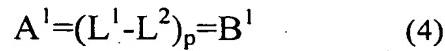
Claim 9 (Original): The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polymer particles are a polymer latex.

Claim 10 (Original): The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the water-dispersible polymer particles are water-insoluble polymers each having at least one dissociable group.

Claim 11 (Original): The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the dye for forming the J-aggregate is selected from the groups represented by the following formulae (1) to (11):

$$A^1 = L^1 - (L^2 = L^3)_m - Q^1 \quad (1)$$

$$A^1 = L^1 - (L^2 = L^3)_n - A^2 \quad (2)$$



wherein, A¹ and A² each represents an acid nucleus, A³ represents substituted or unsubstituted phenol, substituted or unsubstituted naphthol, or an acid nucleus, B¹ represents a base nucleus, B² represents the onium form of a base nucleus, Q¹ and Q² each independently represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group, Q³ represents the onium form of an aryl group or a heterocyclic ring, L¹, L², L³, L⁴, L⁵ and L⁶ each represents a methine group, m, s and u represents an integer of 0, 1 or 2, n and p each represent an integer between 0 and 3, q represents an integer between 0 and 4, r, t₁ and t₂ each represents an integer of 1 or 2, X^{y-} represents an anion, y represents an integer of 1 or 2, and W¹ and W² each independently represents an atomic group needed to complete a five- or six-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic group.

Claim 12 (Original): The image forming method according to claim 2, wherein the inorganic white pigment is a synthetic amorphous silica.